

15-H-ESS5J

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 3, 1969

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVENational Security Decision Memorandum 36TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Holiday Truces, Cease-fire and Troop Withdrawals

In response to the Secretary of State's memorandum of November 28, 1969 and subsequent discussions with you, the President has made the following decisions with respect to holiday truces, cease-fire and troop withdrawals:

1. He wishes to avoid speculation that the U.S. Government is considering new proposals regarding a permanent negotiated cease-fire in South Vietnam and he does not want the issue of brief holiday truces linked with initiatives for a permanent negotiated cease-fire.

2. The President has approved the announcement of a 24-hour truce for Christmas and a 24-hour truce for New Years, with the announcement to be made in Saigon in coordination with the GVN.

3. Until the receipt of specific guidance to the contrary, there is to be no departmental speculation or comment whatsoever to the press on the subject of further troop withdrawals from Vietnam.

The decision regarding a permanent negotiated cease-fire should not preclude continuation of the studies under way on this subject which are designed to formulate the U.S. position and the conditions which we should insist be met if a cease-fire were to be proposed by the other side. It is contemplated, however, that the results of these studies, to include the views of the GVN, will be forwarded through the National Security Council framework for formal consideration by the NSC before discussions of any type would be undertaken with Hanoi's representatives in Paris or elsewhere.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY
Henry A. KissingerTOP SECRET/SENSITIVE